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Letter dated 8 July 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the joint communiqué issued on the occasion of the tripartite summit hosted by Egypt on 5 July 1998 (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could make the necessary arrangements for the distribution of the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36 and 37.

(*Signed*) Nabil **Elaraby**
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Joint communiqué of the Jordan-Palestine-Egypt tripartite summit held in Cairo on 5 July 1998

At the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, His Majesty King Hussein Bin Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, His Excellency Mr. Yasser Arafat, President of the State of Palestine and Chairman of the Palestinian National Authority and His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, met in Cairo on 5 July 1998. The leaders agreed that their meeting represented a step forward in building the unified Arab position necessary to safeguard Arab rights in the context of a comprehensive and just peace. They discussed developments in the peace process and the grave situation in which it found itself because of the policies of the Israeli Government that had brought it to a complete halt on the Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian tracks, thereby portending lost opportunities to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region and a return to the cycle of tension and instability.

In this context, the leaders reviewed developments with respect to the efforts being made by the United States, the major sponsor of the peace process, to restart the process. Having expressed their appreciation to the United States, they urge it to make public the results of its efforts based on the initiative that it proposed to the Palestinians and Israelis and that met with the agreement of the Palestinian side but was not accepted by the Israeli Government. They further expressed deep appreciation for the position taken by the European Union in support of the peace process, committed as it is to international legitimacy in accordance with the Madrid terms of reference and the principle of land for peace.

The leaders affirm their unconditional rejection of the plan for the Judaization of Jerusalem approved by the Israeli Government on 21 June 1998. They call upon it to abandon the plan forthwith and to refrain from taking any measures to implement it on the ground. They further call upon the Israeli Government to desist from taking unilateral measures, and in particular from engaging in settlement activity, from expropriating land and from demolishing homes, in conformity with the agreements concluded that prohibit any of the parties from taking measures that might prejudice the issues for the final-status negotiations.

The three leaders stress that the only way to save the peace process and bring it back on track is full and meticulous commitment to the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference, namely Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and the principle of land for peace on all the respective tracks, in such a manner as to ensure withdrawal from the occupied Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian territories and the exercise by the Palestinian people of its legitimate political rights, primarily the right to exercise self-determination and establish an independent Palestinian State with its capital at Jerusalem. They reaffirm the need for scrupulous compliance with the agreements already concluded, including the implementation of all three stages of further redeployment in accordance with the commitments given and the observance of all the deadlines set by the Interim Agreement.

The three leaders urge the co-sponsors of the peace process, the United States and the Russian Federation, the States members of the European Union and all other States, as well as those forces in Israel that support the peace process, to continue to make every possible effort to salvage the peace process and restore its credibility.

In this context, His Majesty King Hussein and His Excellency President Arafat expressed their support for the Egyptian-French initiative for the convening of an international conference of those countries that are determined to save the peace process. The leaders further stress that efforts should continue to prepare for the convening of an Arab summit meeting to confront the challenges to the efforts being made to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.